AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended) A data transmission method for transmitting data in a system having a host apparatus and at least one terminal apparatus, comprising the steps of:

forwarding a transmission request from the host apparatus to the terminal apparatus;

forwarding a communication request from the terminal apparatus to the host apparatus in response to the transmission request, the communication request containing a timer value of a timer contained in the terminal apparatus, said timer value representing a time when the terminal apparatus has come into a communication possible state; and

conducting polling from the host apparatus to the terminal apparatus, which has forwarded the communication request, according to an identification information based on the received timer value.

Claim 2 (currently amended) A data transmission method for transmitting data in a system having a host apparatus and at least one terminal apparatus connected to the host apparatus, comprising the steps of:

forwarding a transmission request from the host apparatus to the terminal apparatus;

forwarding a communication request from the terminal apparatus to the host apparatus corresponding to said transmission request, said communication request including a timer value of a timer contained in the terminal apparatus, said timer value representing a time when the terminal apparatus has come into a communication possible state;

establishing an identification information for the terminal apparatus, which has forwarded the communication request, according to the timer value contained in the communication request when said host apparatus receives the communication request from the terminal apparatus; and

conducting polling for transmitting data between the host apparatus and the terminal apparatus according to the identification information based on the timer value.

Claim 3 (original) The data transmission method according to claim 2, wherein said system includes a plurality of terminal apparatuses: said method further comprising the steps of; comparing timer values received from the respective terminal apparatuses with each other when said host apparatus receives a plurality of communication requests simultaneously from the plurality of terminal apparatuses; and giving a priority to one of the terminal apparatuses as according to the compared result; and establishing an identification information for the terminal apparatus having the priority according to the timer value received therefrom.

Claim 4 (original) The data transmission method according to claim 2, wherein the timer value itself received from the terminal apparatus is established as the identification

information of the terminal apparatus.

Claim 5 (original) The data transmission method according to claim 3, wherein the timer value itself received from the terminal apparatus having the priority is established as the identification information of the terminal apparatus.

Claim 6 (original) The data transmission method according to claim 2, wherein said host apparatus is either one of a general purpose computer, a minicomputer or a workstation.

Claim 7 (original) The data transmission method according to claim 2, wherein said host apparatus is either one of a general purpose computer, a minicomputer or a workstation and the terminal apparatus is a personal computer.

Claim 8 (original) The data transmission method according to claim 2, wherein said received timer value is further processed to obtain the identification information.

Claim 9 (original) The data transmission method according to claim 2, wherein, in said establishing step, said timer value undergoes an arithmetic operation to obtain the identification information.

Claims 10-18 (canceled).

Claim 19 (currently amended) A communication apparatus for use in data transmission with at least one terminal apparatus connected to the communication apparatus, the communication apparatus comprising:

a communication controller for forwarding a transmission request to said terminal apparatus and for receiving from said terminal apparatus a reply corresponding to the transmission request;

an identification information establishing unit for extracting a timer value obtained from said terminal apparatus from the reply, which is received from the terminal apparatus by said communication controller, said timer value representing a time when said terminal apparatus has come into a communication possible state; and

a polling unit for implementing polling to the terminal apparatus using the identifying information based on the timer value.

Claim 20 (original) A data transmission system for transmitting data between a terminal apparatus and a host apparatus, said terminal apparatus comprising:

a timer; a memory for storing a value of said timer when the terminal apparatus can communicate with the host apparatus; and

a controller for forwarding a reply for a transmission request which is received from the

host apparatus, said controller incorporating said timer value into the reply and forwarding it to the host apparatus; and said host apparatus comprising:

a communication controller for forwarding the transmission request to said terminal apparatus and for receiving from said terminal apparatus the reply corresponding to the transmission request;

an identification information establishing unit for extracting the timer value incorporated in the reply received by said communication controller from said terminal apparatus, and for establishing an identification information for the terminal apparatus according to the extracted timer value; and

a polling unit for implementing polling to the terminal apparatus using the identifying information established by said identification information establishing unit.